



ICE National Gang Enforcement Report **August 8 -25**

The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is pleased to introduce the new *ICE National Gang Enforcement Report*, a bi-monthly summary of enforcement actions resulting from "Operation Community Shield," ICE's ongoing, national anti-gang initiative.

OVERVIEW

ICE launched Operation Community Shield in February 2005 to confront the national problem of violent street gangs. The goals of the initiative are to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute violent street gangs by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE.

Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative immigration authorities) against foreign-born gang members. ICE is also employing its broad customs authorities to combat drug trafficking and other crimes committed by these gangs.

In addition, ICE is using its considerable financial investigative expertise to target the financial infrastructure of these criminal organizations and their illegally derived assets.

PARTNER AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Strong partnerships and cooperation with existing local, state, and federal anti-gang efforts are essential to the success of Operation Community Shield.

In this edition, ICE would like to extend a special thanks to the Norfolk Police Department, the Virginia Beach Police Department, and the Hampton Police Department, all located in Southeastern Virginia.

On August 18, 2005, officers from these police departments teamed up with ICE agents and other federal partners to arrest two gang members and 13 gang associates in Southern Virginia. Officers and agents also seized counterfeit identity documents, a 9mm pistol with ammunition, a .40 caliber semi-automatic rifle with ammunition, and several knives.

STATISTICS

Below are statistics on the arrests of gang leaders, gang members, and gang associates. These include arrests on criminal charges as well as arrests on administrative immigration charges.

Arrests

Total to date: 1,262

August 8-21: 100



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Top 10 gangs/by number of arrests

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. MS-13 (632) | 5. Vatos Locos (27) | 9. Sombra Negra (15) |
| 2. SUR-13 (235) | 6. Latin Kings (26) | 10. Latin Locos (11) |
| 3. 18 th Street (41) | 7. Mexican Posse (21) | |
| 4. Tortilla Flats (32) | 8. Los Pelones (17) | |

CASE EXAMPLES

August 29: Seattle – ICE-Led Operation Leads to Arrest of 24 Gang Members in Seattle

A total of 24 members and associates of the violent Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) street gang have been arrested by ICE on a range of criminal and administrative charges in a coordinated multi-agency enforcement operation. Among the 20 foreign nationals and four U.S. citizens taken into custody was Yoni Gonzales, a known MS-13 gang leader in the Seattle area. The weeklong operation was organized by ICE as part of “Operation Community Shield.”

August 19: Atlanta – Seven Dangerous Gang Members Arrested by ICE

Special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), FBI and local Roswell Police Department officers arrested seven dangerous gang members. All of those arrested belong to various local violent street gangs including the Riverside Locos, Westside Locos, Mexican Locos, Sureños Hard Times, La Raza and the Pure Latin Crew. Their criminal histories include convictions for crimes ranging from armed robbery and forgery to possession of a controlled substance and stalking.

August 10: Memphis – ICE Agents Nab Sur-13 Gang Member

ICE special agents, along with the Memphis/Shelby County Metro Gang Unit arrested SUR-13 gang member Fidencio Galindo-Romero, 24, a citizen of Mexico. Galindo has a criminal history that includes a conviction for felony theft. Galindo-Romero admitted to officers that he had affiliations to the gang, and was in the country illegally. He faces criminal charges for re-entry after deportation. If convicted, Galindo-Romero faces up to 20 years in prison.

August 8: Atlanta – Federal indictment unsealed against 18 members of Sur-13

Federal and local law enforcement authorities announce the unsealing of a federal grand jury indictment against 18 members of a violent street gang known as "Sureños-13," also known as "SUR-13." The indictment charges 14 defendants with being part of a racketeering conspiracy and 3 additional defendants with violent crimes related to racketeering. Regarding the racketeering charges, the indictment alleges predicate crimes including murder, attempted murder, carjacking, armed robbery, and drug dealing. The indictment also charges 8 defendants with conspiring to possess and possessing with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and marijuana, 4 defendants with armed carjacking, and 12 defendants with firearms charges, including possessing, carrying, using, and discharging a firearm during and in relation to violent crimes and drug trafficking. Sixteen of the eighteen were arrested. *Two remain at large.

** Photos and wanted posters of the fugitives are available at www.ice.gov.*

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact ICE Public Affairs, 202-514-2648



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